

Activity:	General Management Planning
------------------	------------------------------------

Activity Summary

Program Component	2003 Enacted	2004 Estimate	2005			Change From 2004 (+/-)
			Uncontr/ Related Changes	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
General Management	7,193	7,171	+29	0	7,200	+29
Strategic Planning	656	656	+7	0	663	+7
Special Resource Studies	993	493	+9	0	502	+9
Environmental Planning and Compliance	4,964	4,935	+13	0	4,948	+13
Total Requirements	13,806	13,255	+58	0	13,313	+58

Authorization

16 U.S.C. 1	The National Park Service Organic Act
16 U.S.C. 1a-5	Additional Areas for National Park System
42 U.S.C. 4321	National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
Public Law 102-154	Interior Appropriations for the period ending September 30, 1992

Activity Overview**General Management Plans**

This program is managed to prepare and maintain up-to-date plans to guide National Park Service actions for the protection, use, development, and management of each park unit.

Strategic Planning

This program provides funds to prepare strategic plans to guide the future of the System.

Special Resources Studies

This program is managed to conduct studies of alternatives for the protection of areas that may have potential for addition to the National Park System or other designations.

Environmental Planning and Compliance

This program is managed to complete environmental impact statements for special projects.

Activity:	General Management Planning
Program Component:	General Management Plans

FY 2005 Base Program Overview

The National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 directs the NPS to prepare and revise in a timely manner "General Management Plans for the preservation and use of each unit of the National Park System." General Management Plans (GMPs) establish specific goals and objectives, a basic philosophy for management, and strategies for resolving major issues related to park purposes as defined by Congress. GMPs are required by law to include:

1. Measures for preservation of the area's resources,
2. Indications of the type and general intensity of development including visitor circulation and transportation patterns along with locations, timing, and anticipated costs,
3. Identification of visitor carrying capacities, and
4. Indications of potential modifications to the external boundaries of the unit.

General management plans provide the basic guidance for how the park will carry out responsibilities for the protection of park resources unimpaired for future generations while providing for appropriate visitor use and enjoyment. The GMP also provides a framework for coordinating interpretive programs, maintenance, facility development, and resource management to promote efficient operations. Priorities for funding general management planning projects are determined by an evaluation of issues confronting the parks and statutory requirements for recently authorized additions to the National Park System. In FY 2005, a system based on the choosing by advantages methodology will continue to be used to determine priorities for GMP starts and maintain accountability for completion of projects within estimated budgets.

Plans are prepared by interdisciplinary teams including the park superintendent and staff, landscape architects, community planners, and specialists in natural and cultural resources, environmental design, concessions management, interpretation, public involvement and other fields as needed. Consistent with recommendations by the National Academy of Public Administration, approximately 60 percent of the Service's general management planning work is accomplished by the Denver Service Center, with the balance accomplished by staff in support offices and by contractors. The planning process emphasizes Secretary Norton's commitment to the "4c's" by including extensive consultation, communication, and cooperation with the public and State, local, and Tribal officials, to clearly define park purpose and significance, goals and objectives, identify desired future conditions, and evaluate alternatives for conservation. Notices of plan availability are reviewed and cleared by the Department before being published in the Federal Register.

A final, approved planning document is only one obvious result of the planning process. Some other important results of general management planning include public involvement and understanding of park mission and goals, guidance on appropriate treatments for natural and cultural resources, coordination with State and local officials and other agencies, and cooperation with adjacent land managers and property owners. Plans also evaluate environmental consequences and socioeconomic impacts, estimate differences in costs, and identify phasing for implementation. Cooperation with partners and park neighbors and mitigation of potential impacts on park resources are especially important results of management planning. In FY 2005, emphasis will be placed on assuring that the NPS produces realistic plans that consider life cycle costs, fiscal constraints on the Federal government, promote partnerships to help accomplish results, and support creative solutions to management challenges that do not necessarily depend on development of new facilities. Special attention will be given to assuring that assumptions about visitation increases are realistic and that the role of visitor centers is carefully scrutinized in light of costs for development and long term operations.

NPS guidelines indicate that general management plans should be designed for a fifteen to twenty year timeframe. While plans for some units are viable for more than twenty years, many others become obsolete in less than five years. Changes in resource conditions, public use patterns, influences from surrounding areas, and legislated boundaries often come more frequently than expected. Many plans approved in past years envision a level of new development and staffing that is not likely to be realized in the foreseeable future, so these plans need to be revised. As of December 31, 2003, more than 200 parks lack a GMP or have one that is more than fifteen years old. The GMP program also supports management planning for units of the National Trails System, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Affiliated Areas and other special projects where Congress has directed the NPS to prepare a management plan in cooperation with others.

Updated planning program standards are scheduled to be implemented in 2004 and 2005 as part of continuing efforts to streamline its planning function and improve services to parks and the public. In FY 2005, a small portion of the program will continue to provide a variety of planning services to meet needs defined by parks and their partners without necessarily completing all of the steps in a traditional general management plan. General Management Plans are not intended to provide specifications for facility design. They do evaluate the general character and intensity of development needed to meet visitor needs and protect park resources. Linkages between general management planning and other strategic and operational planning in the National Park Service also will continue to be improved. Planning at various levels of detail will help support the performance management system developed to meet requirements of the Government Performance and Results Act.

Anticipated FY 2005 General Management Planning Work *

- Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site, Kentucky
- Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail, Hawaii
- Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument, Texas
- Amistad National Recreational Area, Texas
- Appomattox Courthouse National Historical Park, Virginia
- Badlands National Park, South Dakota
- Biscayne National Park, Florida
- Blue Ridge Parkway, North Carolina
- Buck Island Reef National Monument, Virgin Islands
- Buffalo National River, Arkansas
- Canaveral National Seashore, Florida
- Canyon de Chelly National Monument, Arizona
- Capulin Volcano National Monument, New Mexico
- Cedar Creek Battlefield, Virginia
- Channel Islands National Park, California
- Chickasaw National Recreation Area, Oklahoma
- Colorado National Memorial, Colorado
- Craters of the Moon National Monument, Idaho
- Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historic Park, Ohio
- Denali National Park, Alaska
- Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve, Washington
- Everglades National Park, Florida
- First Ladies Library National Historic Site, Ohio
- Flight 93 National Memorial, Pennsylvania
- Fort Matanzas National Memorial, Florida
- Fort Pulaski National Memorial, Georgia
- Fort Raleigh National Historic Site, North Carolina
- Gates of the Arctic National Preserve, Alaska
- George Washington Birthplace National Monument, Virginia
- Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, Alaska
- Golden Gate National Recreation Area, California
- Governors Island National Monument, New York
- Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument, Arizona
- Great Sand Dunes National Park, Colorado
- Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida
- Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, West Virginia
- Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site, New York
- Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site, Pennsylvania
- Hovenweep National Monument, Colorado
- John Day Fossil Beds National Monument, Oregon
- Kings Canyon National Park, California
- Lake Meredith National Recreation Area, Texas
- Lincoln Boyhood Home National Memorial, Indiana
- Minidoka Internment National Monument, Idaho
- Monocacy National Battlefield, Maryland
- Montezuma Castle National Monument, Arizona
- New River Gorge National River, West Virginia
- Niobrara National Scenic Riverway, Nebraska, South Dakota
- Olympic National Park, Washington
- Padre Island National Seashore, Texas
- Pinnacles National Monument, California
- Point Reyes National Seashore, California
- Rosie the Riveter WWII Homefront National Historic Park, California
- Sagamore Hill National Historic Site, New York
- Saguaro National Park, Arizona
- San Juan Island National Historical Park, Washington
- Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, Michigan
- Sequoia National Park, California
- Statue of Liberty National Monument, New York, New Jersey
- Tuzigoot National Memorial, Arizona
- Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site, Alabama
- Valley Forge National Historical Park, Pennsylvania
- Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site, New York
- Virgin Islands Coral Reef National Monument, Virgin Islands
- Virgin Islands National Park, Virgin Islands
- Wekiva Wild and Scenic River, Florida
- Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, Alaska

* This list is subject to change in response to requests to accelerate or delay schedules to better coordinate with partners, available staff or contractors, and other agencies.

Use of Cost and Performance Information: General Management Planning

Cost effective planning uses Choosing by Advantages (CBA) to make decisions and craft preferred alternatives. The Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks GMP used CBA to craft its preferred alternative - reconsidering and eliminating a \$48 Million multi-story parking garage from previously approved planning documents; and retaining the advantages of the best alternative while reducing estimated costs by a total of \$100 million.

Extensive Civic Engagement affected the CBA process and produced results in actions even before the final plan was approved- a National Register of Historic Places listing; assessment of additional rivers for the Wild and Scenic Rivers system; and a Memorandum of Understanding to maintain a cultural landscape.

FY 2003 Program Performance Accomplishments

One of the most important measures of planning program accomplishment is the success in engaging the public and interested organizations in the National Park Service's decision processes. In FY 2003, for example, The Denali backcountry GMP effort resulted in a draft EIS that had 9 Native Corporations and Entities and 26 State and Local Government Entities as stakeholders. 9,500 public comments were received on the draft plan. National Capital Region received over 10,850 comments on the currently active GMPs over 8,000 on one plan alone. In addition, projects in the National Capital Region produced

13 newsletters to communicate with and engage the public, and held 41 public meetings to involve stakeholders in those plans. In the Southeast region, 16 GMP projects are active and 12 newsletters have been created, 45 meetings with the public along with 56 agency or other stakeholder meetings were held in an effort to ensure everyone is included in the GMP process. The success of planning projects does not come simply from having a signed document—it is also the stewardship and partnership that occur when we communicate and coordinate with the public and our agency partners to plan for the future of our national park system. Surveys of park managers in previous years have confirmed that the primary results of management planning include partnerships and public understanding of park missions: accomplishments that will be quantified in future years.

The rate of plan completion in FY 2003 was not as high as expected primarily because of competing commitments for limited staff in parks and support offices, and new steps required to complete environmental or other compliance documents. Many target dates were delayed by requests for additional opportunities for public comment. The time and cost to complete many general management plans reflects factors beyond the immediate control of the NPS such as the increased demands for extended consultation with a wide variety of interested individuals and organizations, coordination with State and local governments, tribal governments, and other Federal agencies.

The following General Management Plans were approved in FY 2003:

- Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site, North Carolina
- Fort Frederica National Monument, Georgia
- Nicodemus National Historic Site, Kansas
- Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, California
- Tonto National Monument, Arizona
- Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, Missouri

The following plans were complete with respect to their funding requirements in FY 2003, but the records of decision were in the final stages of being approved.

- Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area, Massachusetts
- Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area, Georgia
- Colonial National Historical Park, Green Spring Unit, Virginia
- Grand Portage National Monument, Minnesota
- Herbert Hoover National Historic Site, Iowa
- Sunset Crater National Monument, Arizona
- Walnut Canyon National Monument, Arizona
- Wupatki National Monument, Arizona

FY 2004 Planned Program Performance

In FY 2004, general management plans for 29 units are expected to be complete with respect to their funding needs although some additional months may be required to have final records of decision signed. Following is a list of general management planning projects where FY 2004 is the last year that funds will be required. If records of decision are not final in FY 2004 they are expected to follow early in FY 2005.

General Management Plans Scheduled for Completion of Funding in FY 2004 *

- | | |
|---|--|
| • Acadia National Park (Schoodic Unit), Maine | • Hampton National Historic Site, Maryland |
| • Anacostia Park, District of Columbia | • Kenai Fjords National Park, Alaska |
| • Arkansas Post National Memorial, Arkansas | • Lower East Side Tenement NHS, New York |
| • Aztec Ruins National Monument, New Mexico | • Manassas National Battlefield Park, Virginia |
| • Big Bend National Park, Texas | • Minuteman Missile National Historic Site, South Dakota |
| • Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, Tennessee | • Morristown National Historical Park, New Jersey |
| • Big Thicket, Texas | • Navajo National Monument, Arizona |
| • Boston African American National Historic Site, Massachusetts | • Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, Michigan |
| • Coronado National Memorial, Arizona | • Pipestone National Monument, Minnesota |
| • Crater Lake National Park, Oregon | • Rio Grande Wild & Scenic River, Texas |
| • Curecanti National Recreation Area, Colorado | • Rock Creek Park, District of Columbia |
| | • Saratoga National Historical Park, New York |
| | • Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail, Alabama |

- Fallen Timbers Battlefield, Ohio
- Fort Stanwix National Monument, New York Fort Vancouver National Monument, Washington,
- Guadalupe Mountains National Park, Texas
- Shiloh National Military Park – Corinth Unit, Tennessee
- Thomas Cole National Historic Site, New York

* This list is subject to change in response to requests to accelerate or delay schedules to better coordinate with partners, available staff or contractors, and other agencies.

Activity: General Management Planning
Program Component: Strategic Planning

FY 2005 Base Program Overview

Another major component of the Service's multi-year planning function is the strategic planning program which ensures the NPS and its leadership has a focused systematic approach to developing long-term strategies and the continuous organizational development needed to address changing social, political, economic, and demographic realities. Major responsibilities include ongoing coordination of Servicewide NPS implementation of the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (GPRA); Servicewide development and implementation of Activity-Based Costing/Management (ABC/M); continuing performance/budget integration; coordination of park strategic and annual plans; training for performance management, performance budgeting, and ABC/M; and, verification and validation of Servicewide performance metrics. In FY 2004, the third National Park Service Strategic Plan (2004-2008) will be completed in coordination with the development of the Department of the Interior's new Strategic Plan. The Department of the Interior has undertaken a program to develop a single Strategic Plan that incorporates outcome measures, intermediate outcomes and outputs from all bureaus. The NPS Strategic Plan will cross-walk from the Department's identified measures to NPS specific goals and measures. Servicewide information and guidance providing organizational support for a field-oriented process of GPRA implementation is provided through a comprehensive network of goal groups, Servicewide goal contacts, regional goal contacts, regional performance management coordinators, and park coordinators and goal contacts. The network is guided by the Office of Strategic Planning that is part of the Director's immediate office. Annual performance plans are produced in conjunction with each fiscal year budget request cycle. Work will continue in FY 2005 for performance management implementation through:

- Ongoing coordination of the *National Park Service Strategic Plan* implementation
- Preparation and/or revision of park and Servicewide Fiscal Year Annual Performance Plans that parallel the budget formulation process
- Work with the NPS Budget Office on integration of performance and budget through Activity Based Cost/ Management (ABC)/M)
- Preparation of Servicewide Annual Performance Report for FY 2004
- Ongoing participation in implementation of Departmental Strategic Plan and NPS Annual Performance Plans and Reports
- Extensive coordination with five Servicewide goal groups (natural, cultural, visitors, external partnerships, and organizational effectiveness) for development and refinement of Servicewide goals, development of strategies to achieve goals, identification of external factors affecting goal achievement, data refinement, verification and validation, and program evaluations
- Ongoing Servicewide training for performance management and GPRA implementation,
- Extensive coordination with Regional coordinators and Goal Contacts and support to park and programs in their implementation of performance management and extensive training of park staffs
- Refinement and expansion of Servicewide Performance Management Data System (PMDS), which is used to track performance goals and accomplishments
- Extensive performance data analysis and evaluation, and performance data verification and validation
- The ongoing refinement of linkages with operations, information systems, budget formulation and financial reporting systems, planning, and personnel

Activity: General Management Planning
Program Component: Special Resources Studies

FY 2005 Base Program Overview

As directed by Congress (16 U.S.C. 1a-5), the National Park Service monitors resources that exhibit qualities of national significance, and conducts studies where specifically authorized, to determine if areas have potential for inclusion in the National Park System. Special Resource Studies collect information about candidate areas to determine if they meet established criteria for significance, suitability, and feasibility as potential additions to the National Park System. These studies also evaluate alternative concepts for protection by others outside of the National Park System. The primary purposes of the study program are to provide information for Congress in evaluating the quality of potential new park units, and to encourage the protection of important resources in ways that will not impose undue pressure on the limited fiscal resources available for existing NPS units.

Following is a list of Special Resource Study projects expected to be ongoing in FY 2005. Available funds will be directed to completing previously authorized studies rather than any new projects. National Park Service expects that additional analysis of life cycle costs and environmental consequences will identify the potential costs of adding new units to the NPS.

The Department intends to focus its attention and resources on taking care of existing responsibilities, such as addressing facility maintenance needs, rather than continuing the rapid expansion of new NPS responsibilities. The Department does not expect to submit a list of proposed authorizations for any new studies or new park units along with the budget submission as envisioned by Public Law 105-391, so that progress can be made in completing the projects currently underway and previously authorized.

Ongoing Studies in FY 2005

- Bainbridge Island/Japanese Memorial, Washington
- Coltsville, Connecticut
- Harriet Tubman Sites, New York and Maryland
- Lincoln Highway, Multi State
- Muscle Shoals, Alabama
- Niagara Falls, New York
- San Gabriel River Watershed, California

Recently Authorized Studies

- Buffalo Bayou Heritage, Texas
- Miami Circle, Florida
- Virginia Key, Florida
- Waco Mammoth Site, Texas

FY 2003 Program Performance Accomplishments

In FY 2003 the Department of the Interior transmitted 5 completed special resource studies to Congress. Over the past 20 years only about one in every four or five studies finds that an area is eligible for inclusion in the National Park System. Between 2002 and 2003 only one of the 5 studies NPS forwarded to Congress found the area eligible for designation as a unit of the National Park System. The special resource study program has included many projects directed by Congress where the NPS and the community have agreed that existing programs of technical or financial assistance are preferable to the establishment of a new park with long-term management responsibilities and major funding commitments for the NPS. Experience to date has indicated that adequately prepared studies help defend the integrity of the park system against expansions into areas that fail to meet established standards, while allowing for a few carefully selected new units that are of outstanding importance to the national heritage.

The following Studies were transmitted to Congress in FY 2003:

Anderson Cottage, Washington, DC
 Carter G. Woodson Home, Washington, DC
 Ferry Farm, Virginia
 Northern Frontier, NY
 Walden Pond and Woods Massachusetts

The following studies were transmitted to Congress early in Fiscal Year 2004:

Crossroads of the American Revolution, New Jersey
 Hot Springs High School, Arkansas
 Upper Housatonic River Valley, Connecticut

The following studies received their final funding allotments in FY 2003 and are being completed or are in the transmittal process in FY 2004.

- Angel Island, California
- Battle of Homestead and Carrie Furnace, Pennsylvania
- Chesapeake Bay Sites, Maryland and Virginia
- Vicksburg Campaign Trail, Multi State
- World War II Sites in Peleiu

Public Law 105-391, enacted on November 13, 1998, updated the process for considering new additions to the National Park System. Each new study proposal is required to be forwarded to Congress and specifically authorized. The study program in 2004 and in 2005 will focus on completing projects previously directed by Congress to evaluate important resources and find ways to protect them that do not necessarily involve Federal land acquisition or long-term commitments for management and operations by the NPS. These studies will place an increased emphasis on examining the full life-cycle operation and maintenance costs that would result from a newly created or expanded park unit or some other NPS funding responsibility.

FY 2004 Planned Program Performance

In FY 2004, the NPS has 14 studies in progress supported by this program including 3 studies of potential heritage areas and 11 studies involving potential new park units. 6 projects authorized in previous years are scheduled for completion with respect to funding needs in FY 2004. Congress authorized 4 additional studies during the last two sessions that have not yet begun.

Special Resource Studies Scheduled for Completion of Funding in FY 2004

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| • Fort King, Florida | • Great Falls Historic District, New Jersey |
| • Fort Hunter Liggett, California | • Kate Mullaney House, New York |
| • Gaviota Coast, California | • Low Country Gullah Culture, South Carolina, Florida, Georgia |

Activity: General Management Planning
Program Component: Environmental Impact Planning and Compliance

FY 2005 Base Program Overview

The National Park Omnibus Management Act of 1998 and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) require park management decisions to be based on a full examination of alternatives and impacts and opportunities for public involvement. This program enhances the National Park Service's ability to prepare environmental impact statements and fulfill other environmental planning and evaluations required by law. The FY 2005 level requested for this program would be used to respond to an increasing number of court or legislatively mandated environmental documents to support sound resource based decisions. Funding would also be utilized to support technically proficient project leaders to work with park based specialists in preparing complex documents, facilitate public and agency reviews, and help ensure that decisions are legally and environmentally sustainable. Anticipated results would include better conditions for park resources, improved quality of visitor experiences, decisions that are upheld in court, and reduced costs for projects conducted under court mandated schedules.

Ongoing Impact Analysis:

- Bandelier National Park, Ecosystem Restoration Plan, New Mexico

Personal Watercraft Management Studies:

- Amistad National Recreation Area, Texas
- Assateague Island National Seashore, Maryland

- Benefits Sharing Implementation, NPS-Wide Programmatic Statement
- Catocin Mountain Park, Deer Management, Maryland
- Grand Teton National Park, Bison/Elk Management, Wyoming
- Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site, Irrigation Management/Restoration, Arizona
- Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Deer Management, Indiana
- Mojave National Preserve, Grazing Management, California
- North Cascades National Park, Fish Stocking EIS, Washington

- Big Thicket National Preserve, Texas
- Cape Lookout National Seashore, North Carolina
- Chickasaw National Recreation Area, Oklahoma
- Curecanti National Recreation Area, Colorado
- Fire Island National Seashore, New York
- Gateway National Recreation Area, New York
- Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Utah
- Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida
- Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Nevada
- Lake Meredith National Recreation Area, Texas
- Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area, Washington
- Padre Island National Seashore, Texas

FY 2003 Program Performance Accomplishments

Per court settlement with Bluewater Network, environmental analyses are underway, under EQD leadership and contracts, for 15 parks. The Lake Mead National Recreation Area Lake Management Plan was completed proposing personal watercraft use to continue as was the personal watercraft plan for Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. Projects have been initiated with funding to seek public input and complete environmental analyses for ecosystem restoration of landscapes and habitat at Bandelier National Monument; management of mountain lakes fisheries at North Cascades National Park and Recreation Complex; exotic vegetation species management at Everglades National Park; and establishment of ecological benchmarks for resource protection at Indiana Dunes National Seashore. An integrated system to relate funding, planning, compliance and public comment has been developed to track and coordinate compliance on all NPS projects. This will assure for better coordination and timely completion of compliance through use of one web-based system. In addition, the following projects were undertaken or completed:

- Biscayne National Park, Stiltsville Study, Florida
- Capital Reef National Park, Burr Trail Study, Utah
- Economic Studies, Snowmobiling
- Glacier Bay National Park & Preserve, Falls Creek EIS, Alaska
- Glacier Bay National Park & Preserve, Vessel Management EIS
- Grand Teton National Park, Jackson Bison/Elk Management EIS, Wyoming
- Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site, Environmental Assessment, Arizona
- Personal Water Craft Environment Documents
- Yellowstone National Park, Bison EIS, Wyoming
- Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Oregon Inlet Dredging, North Carolina
- Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area, Deer Management, Ohio
- Everglades National Park, Exotic Plant Management Impact Assessment, Florida
- Fire Island National Seashore, Erosion Management/Beach Preservation, New York
- Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Cades Cove EIS, Tennessee/North Carolina
- Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Emergency Low Water Activities, Nevada
- Rock Creek Park, Cell Tower Assessment, District of Columbia
- Theodore Roosevelt National Park, Exotic Plant Management Impact Assessment, North Dakota
- Wind Cave National Park, Chronic Wasting Disease Assessment, South Dakota
- Yellowstone/Grand Teton National Park, Winter Use, Wyoming

FY 2004 Planned Program Performance

During FY 2004, this program will provide for preparation of environmental analysis for decisions on actions and projects that do not fit within the normal scope of the construction program or the general management-planning program. For example, previous issues evaluated include management decisions on trail planning, wildlife population and control measures in eastern parks, planning for land exchanges with local governments, providing for cooperative land use planning and management with local governments, providing urgent planning and compliance. This funding allows the requisite planning and environmental evaluation to take place. This funding allows the requisite planning and environmental evaluation to address those issues whose cost exceed the normal capability of park operating base funds so that decisions can be reached and implemented. Since park base funding normally does not anticipate preparation of complex environmental documents, decisions on important resource management or other issues are delayed or deferred, resulting in a decision backlog which may compound resource damage or

result in inadequate public participation. The Service also intends to complete rulemaking and environmental analyses of all units proposing to continue personal watercraft use, and complete additional guidelines for efficiently conducting environmental analyses for general management plans, federal highway projects, and NPS partnership projects funded through the Land and Water Conservation Fund. In addition to the continuation of a number of projects begun in FY 2003, the new projects for FY 2004 include:

FY 2004 New Starts:

Cape Lookout National Seashore – Complete Court Mandated EA/EIS for Cape Lookout Village
Cape Cod National Seashore - Complete Court Ordered EIS for Hunting
Golden Gate National Recreation Area – Pet Management, Public Use Plan and Regulation
Big South Fork National Recreation Area – Oil and Gas Management Plan/EIS
George Washington Memorial Parkway – Trail Extension Plan/EIS
Curecanti National Recreation Area – Management Plan EA for Sand and Gravel Operations
Great Smoky Mountains National Park – Elkmont Environmental Impact Statement
Mesa Verde National Park – Fire Management EIS